

FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT, GENERAL

8021

(No.36 May 2016)

Updated technology and the requirement of multi-channel aircraft, mobile and HT radios have given CAL FIRE the capability of using multiple tactical nets. This is a major improvement in operational communications. All radio users, however, must understand that undisciplined use of radio frequencies can create serious interference problems-sometimes to outside agencies. The fact that your radio is capable of selecting, receiving and transmitting multiple frequencies does not give you the right to transmit on any frequency you desire.

Radio frequency management is the responsibility of the unit ECCs, the region OCCs, and Sacramento HQ Frequency coordinators. All personnel, ground and air units will comply with frequency assignments issued by the command and/or control centers. Incident Communications Unit Leaders will coordinate their incident frequency assignments with the local ECC.

Mobile repeaters broadcast over a large area, and are not to be used unnecessarily. Use direct (car to car or "Talk-around") transmission whenever operationally possible.

FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

8021.1

(No.36 May 2016)

- Due to the complexity of CAL FIRE and cooperating agency radio systems, it is necessary for unit ECCs and region OCCs to constantly monitor and manage their radio nets and make and / or request frequency assignments and adjustments as required.
- Unit ECCs control their assigned CAL FIRE local and tactical frequencies and, in some units, local government frequencies as well.
See frequency sections {[8026](#)} and {[8028.3](#)}
- Region OCCs assist the ECCs with frequency coordination; receive requests for use of additional frequencies and make assignments; coordinate the use of Command frequencies, air-to-air tactical frequencies and air-to-ground frequencies.
- Sacramento HQ frequency Coordinator under guidance from the CAL FIRE Frequency Management Team, will provide statewide coordination of command, tactical, air-to-air tactical, air-to-ground frequencies when requested by region OCCs to assist.
- When a unit ECC needs to use a Command frequency, approval shall be requested through the appropriate Region OCC.

- CAL FIRE air-to-air tactical frequencies may, with proper specific controls, be assigned for night tactical use by ground units. Such use must be carefully coordinated with the incident Air Operations Director and Communications Unit Leader. Use by ground units shall not commence until all incident-aircraft are on base for the evening, and shall terminate by sunrise. **NOTE:** Given the starting times of the typical 12 and 24 hour operational periods, it is unlikely that this use would be operationally practical and is discouraged.
- Tactical frequency (TacNet) assignments will be made or approved by the local ECC. Pre-authorized tactical frequency assignments for each Unit are listed in the CAL FIRE Radio Call Plan and in [section 8028.3](#) of this handbook.
- All units have access to the primary CAL FIRE air-to-ground net, which was formally referred to as “RedNet” however, it is utilized many times as an Emergency frequency so routine use may need to be limited. This frequency, 151.2200 MHz, may be overloaded and unusable for a given incident. If that is the case, another air-to-ground frequency may be assigned from the local TacNets available, or-with region OCC's approval of the various Command frequencies. A third possibility is to request temporary use of a cooperator's frequency (USFS, BLM, NIFC, etc.) through the region OCC.
- OES V-Fire 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 are intersystem radio frequencies to provide for radio communications between two or more fire agencies. OES Fire and Rescue Branch serves as the daily coordinator of the use of the V-Fire frequencies. Policy on the use of these frequencies in California is established by the California Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (CALSIEC) in cooperation with the California Fire Chief's Association, and published in OES operational bulletins. See “Operations Bulletin #28 Rev 5 / 10”.
- Region OCC, should utilize the CAL FIRE Frequency Coordinator to assist in assigning additional Command, Tactical, and Air to Air frequencies especially when non-CAL FIRE frequencies will be needed. ***Duty line for CAL FIRE Frequency coordination (916) 327-8652***

INCIDENT FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

8021.2

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- 1.) Determine channel needs for incident.
- 2.) Contact Local ECC to coordinate COM205
- 3.) Create COM205 – electronically “whenever possible”
- 4.) Email COM205 to – COM205@fire.ca.gov
 - a. The 205s will reside in the COM205 mailbox for future reference.
- 5.) When the incident grows to a point that additional channels are needed coordination moves up the chain.
 - a. Local ECC
 - b. Region OCC - GACC
 - c. Sacramento HQ. (Frequency coordinator)

The purpose of the COM205 folder is a central repository for all incident communications plans. This will allow any of the coordinators access to the plans to be able to determine what is available and where we have conflicts in frequency use.

Duty line for CAL FIRE Frequency coordination (916) 327-8652

CAL FIRE COM Coordinator

CAL FIRE Telecom Manager
Office (916) 653-6622
FAX (916) 653-8961

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)